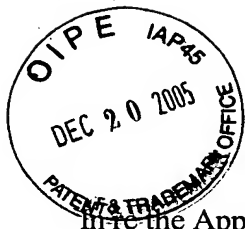


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Atsushi NAGAHARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Application No.: 10/736,745

Examiner: H. HERNDON

Filed: December 17, 2003

Docket No.: 117978

For: LAYOUT SYSTEM, LAYOUT PROGRAM, AND LAYOUT METHOD

SECOND STATUS INQUIRY LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please telephone our firm's Patent Application Filing Department at 703-836-6400 with the status of the above-identified patent application, including an indication as to when the next communication can be expected.

Respectfully submitted,

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